Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the memory device comprising:

a USB connector for ~~being connected~~ connection to a USB port of the data processing system;

an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;

a connector cover elastically biased against an external surface of the portable memory device to cover the USB connector when the portable memory device is not connected to the USB-supporting data processing system thereby protecting the USB connector from damage, the elastically biased connector cover being slidably retractable ~~against~~ over the external surface of the portable memory device ~~the elastic bias~~ to expose the USB connector ~~to be~~ when connected to the USB port; and

a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the memory with the data processing system.

2.   (Original)   The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory is a nonvolatile semiconductor memory.

3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Previously Presented)   The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device is operated as a portable memory device of the data processing system.

5.   (Original)   The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device supports a plug and play function, and the USB connector is capable of being connected and separated to/from the USB port of the data processing system while the data processing system is powered on.

6.   (Original)   The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device stores a security information.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The memory device of claim 1, wherein the data processing system stores a security information to verify an authorized user.

8.   (Currently Amended) The memory device of claim 7, wherein the data processing system boots up only when thea security information of the memory device is matched with the security information of stored on the data processing system.

9 – 21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 1, further comprising:
a spring coupled between the connector cover and a housing of the device.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 22, wherein the spring is compressed upon attachment of the portable memory device to the USB port.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The device of claim 22, wherein the cover has a ridge protruding from a side portion of the cover that engages a concave groove in the housing enabling the cover to slide forwards and backwards with respect to the housing.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method of securing a host computer, comprising:
applying power to the host computer;
determining whether a USB security device is attached to a USB port on the host computer;
displaying an error message when it is determined that the USB security device is not attached to the USB port of the host computer;
reading a password from the USB security device and comparing the read password with a password stored in the host computer;

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displaying an error message when the password on the USB security device does not match the password stored in the host <u>computer</u> and preventing the host <u>computer</u> from being booted when the password on the USB security device does not match the password stored in the host<u>computer</u>;

booting up the host computer only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host <u>computer</u> and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the host computer; and

attaching the USB security device to the USB port of the host computer prior to when power is applied to the host<u>computer</u>, the attaching operation comprising automatically sliding a cover <u>that is elastically biased against an external surface of</u> <s>on</s> the USB security device backward <u>over the exterior surface of the USB security device</u> in a direction opposite to a direction of inserting the USB security device into the USB port when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host computer.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

enabling a hard disk drive in the host <u>computer</u> only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host <u>computer</u> and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the host computer.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the booting up of the host computer comprises:

loading an operating system in the host <u>computer</u>.

28.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 25, wherein the reading and comparing is performed prior to when the host computer is booted up.

29 - 30.   (Canceled).

31.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 25, further comprising:

providing the USB security device with:

a USB connector for being connected to the USB port of the host computer;

an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;

a connector cover elastically biased to cover the USB connector when the portable memory device is not connected to the USB-supporting data processing system thereby protecting the USB connector from damage, the connector cover being slidably retractable against the elastic bias to expose the USB connector to be connected to the USB port; and

a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the memory with the data processing system.

32.　　(Previously Presented)　　The portable memory device of claim 1, the portable memory device being used to secure a host computer according to a process comprising:

applying power to the host computer;

determining whether a portable memory device is attached to a USB port on the host;

displaying an error message when it is determined that the portable memory device is not attached to the USB port of the host;

reading a password from the portable memory device and comparing the read password with a password stored in the host;

displaying an error message when the password on the portable memory device does not match the password stored in the host and preventing the host from being booted when the password on the portable memory device does not match the password stored in the host; and

booting up the host computer only when the portable memory device is attached to the USB port of the host and only when the password stored in the portable memory device matches the password stored in the host computer.

33.　　(Currently Amended)　A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the memory device comprising:

a USB connector to be connected to a USB port of the data processing system;

an integrated circuit memory to write/read data;

a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, to interface the memory with the data processing system; and

a retractable cover having a rectangular cross-section surrounding the USB connector,

the retractable cover being elastically biased <u>against an outer surface of the USB connector</u> to protect the USB connector from damage when the portable memory device is not connected to the USB-supporting data processing system.

34.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 33, further comprising a flat ledge,
      wherein the retractable cover is a sliding retractable cover,
      wherein the retractable sliding cover when retracted exposes the USB connector and when not retracted covers the USB connector, and
      wherein the retractable sliding cover when retracted slides onto the flat ledge to accommodate the retractable sliding cover while permitting exposure of the USB connector sufficient to be connected to the USB port.

35.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 33, further comprising a housing to accommodate the memory and the USB interface.

36.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 34, further comprising a housing to accommodate the memory and the USB interface.

37.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 36, wherein the flat ledge has an overall thickness less than an overall thickness of the housing and the flat ledge is attached to the USB connector at an end thereof and to the housing of the USB interface at another end thereof.

38.   (Currently Amended) The portable memory device of claim 37, wherein the cover has an overall interior opening <u>size that is</u>of a thickness greater than the overall thickness of the flat ledge.

39.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 38, wherein the flat ledge further comprises a spring or a groove and the cover, the housing, the USB connector and the flat ledge have a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

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40.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 43, wherein the hole has an oval shape.

41.   (Currently Amended) The portable memory device of claim 38, wherein the ~~thickness~~ overall interior opening size of the retractable cover equals the overall thickness of the housing minus the overall thickness of the flat ledge.

42.   (Currently Amended) The portable memory device of claim 41, wherein an overall outer surface thickness of the retractable cover equals the overall thickness of the housing.

43.   (Previously Presented)   The portable memory device of claim 35, wherein the portable memory device comprises:
     a hole formed through the housing.

44.   (Previously Presented)   A portable security device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the security device comprising:
     a housing;
     a USB connector disposed at a first end of the housing and coupled to the USB connector to insert into a USB port of the data processing system;
     an integrated circuit memory enclosed within the housing to store therein a computer readable code;
     a connector cover biased against the housing in a first position around a distal end of the USB connector and retracted into a second position by engaging with a periphery of the USB port responsive to the insertion of the USB connector; and
     a USB interface enclosed within the housing and electrically interposed between the USB connector and the memory to provide the computer readable code to the data processing system, the absence of which preventing an operating system of the data processing system from booting.

45.   (Previously Presented)   A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the memory device comprising:

a housing;

a USB connector disposed at a first end of the housing and coupled to the USB connector to insert into a USB port of the data processing system;

an integrated circuit memory to store therein data of the data processing system sufficient to substitute for a floppy disk drive thereof;

a connector cover biased against the housing in a first position around a distal end of the USB connector and retracted against the bias into a second position; and

a USB interface enclosed within the housing and electrically interposed between the USB connector and the memory to store the data into, and retrieve the data from the data processing system.

46.   (Currently Amended) A method of securing a host computer, the method comprising:

applying power to the host computer;

determining whether a USB security device is attached to a USB port on the host computer prior to loading an operating system;

preventing the operating system from loading and displaying an error message when it is determined that the USB security device is not attached to the USB port of the host computer;

reading a computer-readable code from the USB security device and comparing the code with a code stored in the host computer;

preventing the operating system from loading and displaying an error message when the code on the USB security device does not match the code stored in the host computer;

loading the operating system only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host computer and only when the code stored in the USB security device matches the code stored in the host computer; and

attaching the USB security device to the USB port of the host computer prior to the power being applied thereto, the attaching including inserting the USB security device into the USB port and thereby retracting a cover that is elastically biased against a connector and ~~surrounding a~~surrounds the connector on the USB security device by engaging with a periphery

of the USB port responsive to the insertion of the USB security device.